

Daily Gate City
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¹⁰⁸ Montrose hosts visit from 'Great Places' coaches ⁷

FOR THE DAILY GATE CITY

MONTROSE - Montrose hosted a visit from Iowa Great Places Program coaches this afternoon.

The coaches represent state agencies participating in the initiative and are making this initial visit to Montrose as it begins its journey to become one of the three communities up for selection for an Iowa Great Places designation.

The coaches will tour the community with Mayor Ron Dinwiddie in the late afternoon and then meet with him and members of the Montrose

their Great Place visions forward. Also, coaches will help identify a community's next steps and assess its readiness to present offers to the Great Places Citizen Advisory Board for consideration as one of the pilot Great Places. The board will select three pilots in early October.

"Each and every one of the 145 places that extended invitations will benefit from the Great Places initiative through the coaching process and new training opportunities," according to Anita Walker, director of the Iowa Department of Cultural

Visioning Executive Planning Committee at 6:30 p.m. in the Lee County Economic Development Community Room.

The group will discuss the steps that Montrose can take to partner with the state to become a "Great Place" through the Iowa Great Places initiative.

The coaches visiting Montrose are two of about 75 who are being dispatched in teams to the 145 places that submitted invitations.

Coaches will work with the communities throughout the summer to help them move

Affairs, the state agency overseeing the initiative. "The three pilot Great Places will be part of the learning laboratory in this first year of Great Places, during which the state will explore coordinated, focused ways to deliver technical and financial assistance to deliver powerful results."

For more information about the initiative, access www.iowagreatplaces.gov.

The site includes a copy of the letter Dinwiddie submitted inviting the State of Iowa to partner with the community.